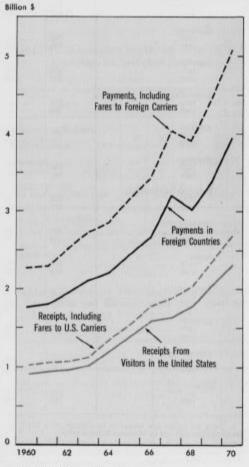
International Travel, Passenger Fares, and Other Transportation in the U.S. Balance of Payments: 1970

INTERNATIONAL travel, passenger fare, and other transportation transactions last year resulted in U.S. payments to foreigners of nearly \$8 billion, more than \$1 billion or 15 percent higher than in 1959. U.S. receipts from such transactions increased 16 percent or \$800 million, and reached \$6 billion. The net U.S. payment was almost \$2 billion, compared with \$1.8 billion in 1969. The net U.S. payment for travel expenditures and passenger fares was about \$2.5 billion in 1970,

CHART II

71+6-11

U.S. Payments and Receipts for Travel and Transocean Passenger Fares



U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics

surplus in the other transportation account.

while there was a modest \$500 million

This article reviews developments affecting the travel, passenger fare, and other transportation accounts that appear in the U.S. balance of international payments. Data on passenger fares for transocean transportation are cited in the discussion of total spending by U.S. residents traveling abroad (and spending by foreign visitors to the United States), although the fares are treated separately in the balance of payments accounts. The article also covers passenger fares of U.S. travelers paid to U.S. transocean carriers, which do not enter the balance of payments accounts but do represent an important part of total spending by U.S. travelers (table 1, memorandum items). Freight payments to U.S. and foreign air and sea carriers and the carriers' port expenditures are also reviewed in this article, under the heading "other transportation" transactions.

U.S. Spending for Travel Abroad

U.S. residents spent \$6.2 billion on foreign travel last year, 15 percent more than in 1969. Dollar earnings of foreign countries increased 16 percent to nearly \$5.2 billion, including more than \$1.2 billion in passenger fares paid to foreign sea and air carriers for transocean transportation, and almost \$4 billion in expenditures for food, lodging, transportation within foreign areas, etc. (table 1, lines 2 and 3). In addition, U.S. travelers paid \$985 million to U.S. carriers for transocean transportation (table 1, line 18), an amount which does not figure in the U.S. balance of payments.

The weakness of business activity and the rise of unemployment in the United

Table 1.—International Travel, Passenger Fare, and Other Transportation Transactions
[Millions of dollars]

		1966	1967	1968*	1969*	1970
1. 7	otal travel, passenger fare, and other transportation payments.	5,579	6, 188	6, 279	6, 950	7, 957
2.	Travel: Payments by U.S. visitors in foreign countries (line 18)	2,657	3, 195	3,022	3, 390	3,953
3.	Passenger Fares: U.S. Payments to foreign carriers (line 19)	755	830	885	1,080	1, 215
5.	Other transportation (line 20) Freight payments to foreign carriers on U.S. imports	2,167 1,234	2, 163 1, 222	2,372 1,348	2,480 1,408	2,789 1,508
6	Port expenditures abroad by U.S. carriers	588	598	651	671	808
6. 7.	Other payments	345	343	373	401	473
8. T	otal travel, passenger fare, and other transportation receipts	4, 197	4, 436	4,721	5, 170	5, 978
9,	Travel: Receipts from foreign visitors in the U.S. (line 4)	1,590	1,646	1,775	2,058	2,319
10.	Passenger Fares: foreign payments to U.S. carriers (line 5)	317	371	411	450	553
11.	Other fransportation (line 6)	2,290	2,419	2,535	2,662	3, 106
12. 13.	Freight receipts of U.S. carriers.	780 1,388	1,493	1,581	787 1, 731	1,942
14.	Port expenditures in the U.S. by foreign carriers	123	126	137	1, 701	177
	W. Commission of the commissio					
15. N	iet travel, passenger fare, and other transportation payments (-)	1,382	1,752	1,558	1,780	1,979
	Memorandum:					
16.	Travel payments of U.S. visitors in foreign countries (line 18)	2,657	3, 195	3,022	3, 390	3, 953
17.	Plus: U.S. passenger fare payments to foreign carriers (line 19)	755	830	885	1,080	1,215
18.	Plus: U.S. passenger fare payments to U.S. carriers	635 4,047	715 4,740	815 4,722	895 5, 365	985 6, 153
19.	Equals: Total expenses of U.S. visitors	4,047	4, 740	4,722	0, 000	0, 130
	Memorandum:	1 200		1 1000	0.000	0.7910
20. 21.	Travel receipts from foreign visitors in the U.S. (line 4) Plus: Foreign passenger fares to and from the U.S. paid to U.S.	1,590	1,646	1,775	2,058	2,319
-1.	carriers	195	235	260	303	377
22.	Equals: Total U.S. receipts from foreign visitors	1,785	1,881	2,035	2, 361	2,696

Note.—References in parentheses to lines 4, 5, 6, 18, 19, and 20 indicate where these estimates may be found in tables 2 and 3 of the regular balance of payments presentations.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

States in 1970 appears to have had little impact on U.S. travel outlays, although there was some evidence that certain nearby areas were marginally affected. Travel payments (excluding passenger fares) increased nearly 17 percent, compared with a 12 percent increase in 1969. Travelers' spending in oversea areas rose a sharp 20 percent to a record \$2.2 billion but spending rose only slightly in the Caribbean area while outlays in South America appear

Table 2.—Travel Payments of U.S. Visitors in Foreign Countries, by Area

(Millions of dollars) 1907 1068 1260 1070 Total iravel payments.... 2,647 3, 165 3,023 3,350 1,963 Canada.
Westeo.
Persons eleking
Aferican barder only. 070 320 100 1,040 720 171 ĎÓŮ 1000 364 872 390 401 425 Overson press...... . 484 1,585 672 J, 816 2, 184 Europe and Mediter-TOTAL SICE..... 0/20 .018 TO S . 100 1,426 Wastern Europe, ... 846 026 1,310 **D14** 1.076 United Kingdom, 200 100 172 108 140 118 183 03 110 148 67 148 142 53 (TRI) EX 111 40 30 18 148 54 30 24 104 411 322 22 Соглану.... 30 20 13 114 Austria..... Donmark.... Swedon..... 43 82 20 10 36 73 40 27 41 31 44 14 28 Luxeralioneg... 18 63 17 88 18 80 18 80 22 88 20 32 28 20 42 40 21 양 자 4 36 37 34 Onece...... Ollier Western ı 8 19 Europe..... 넴 Other Burope and Mediterraneau 115 62 53 74 36 30 74 **34** () 85 #rop...... 68 30 Other. # West Indies and Central America. 250 205 326 376 300 Bormuda.... 20 104 78 66 182 88 03 127 73 **(0** 88 00 Jump|#1 Other Dritish West Indies...... Natherlands West 24 30 33 42 84 Indies.... Other West Indies and Central 12 10 14 10 10 **坦** 15 52 70 35 #4 02 81 270 Oliver Overses areas. 160 162 167 189 Jepon Hong Kong Austrolia-New Zosland 97 13 62 30 80 21 28 28 70 36

Nove.—Excludes travel by military personnol and other Government employees stationed abroad and by their dependents and U.S. citizens residing abroad; includes above exponditures of croise travelers, but not their transportation area other passenger ares.

to have declined fractionally (table 2). Total spending in Mexico was up about 7 percent from 1969, but spending in the areas adjacent to the border rose only 5 percent. A substantial part of the 16 percent increase in travel spending in Canada reflected higher exchange rates for Canadian currency in terms of U.S. dollars, in effect an increase in prices to American visitors.

About 98 percent of the 5.3 million Americans who went overseas traveled by air (table 4). Only about 120,000 traveled by sea, 30,000 fewer than in 1969. However, cruise traffic increased about 25,000 to nearly 560,000 last year, almost all on foreign-flag vessels. As a result of that increase, and the virtual disappearance from the North Atlantic of U.S. flag passenger ships, foreign sea carriers received more from Americans last year than in 1969. Cruise passengers are not included in the count of U.S. travelers because most of their expenditures are in the form of passenger fares, and their shore expenses are minimal.

Spending in Europe

The introduction of the 747 jet aircraft, with its greater carrying capacity and the public interest it generated, combined with reduced air fares across the Atlantic, contributed to a marked rise last year in U.S. travel to Europe. U.S. travel outlays in Western Europe were \$1.3 billion, up 22 percent from 1969, while the number of Americans visiting the area reached nearly 2.8 million, also up 22 percent (tables 2 and 3).

Nearly 1.4 million U.S. travelers visited the United Kingdom last year, making it once again the leading oversea destination. Travelers' average spending there increased slightly and the total rose about 28 percent to \$293 million. The number of U.S. visitors to Italy showed a strong rise of 28 percent, to 870,000, after 2 years of little change. The average outlay fell slightly and total spending in Italy rose 21 percent. The average outlay was also lower in France, but the number of Americans traveling there rose 21 percent to nearly 1 million and France's receipts

from U.S. travelers rose 12 percent to \$160 million.

Switzerland and Germany each increased their earnings from U.S. travelers by 30 percent, on the strength of larger numbers of visitors and a slight rise in average outlays. Germany received a total of \$148 million from about

Table 3.—Number of U.S. Travelers and Their Average Travel Payments in Europe and the Mediterranean

···	Number of travelers (thousands)	Average payment (dollers)				
tropt and Mediterranens 2978 1989	2,898 2,363	494 490				
Western Europe: 1970	2,783 2,28 4	470 470				
United Kingdors: 1970 1999	1, 305 1, 992	215 200				
\$754068: 1970 1080	606 831	141 174				
Italy: 1970 1980	873 730	19 6 108				
Switzsrland; 1970 1989	794 832	180 181				
Germany: 1970 1989	9223 740	150 154				
Austria: 197a 1980	638 474	101 L #2				
Denmark: (970	317 292	124 100				
Sweden: 1670 1969	177 167	125 110				
Norway: 1970	160 148	108 162				
Belgium-Luxembourg: 1970	291 288	74 61				
Notherlands: 1978. 1990.	526 450	88 00				
Spetn: 1070	420 416	194 183				
Portugal: 1970	225 186	130 138				
Iroland: 1970 1940,	27m 100	192 190				
Greeco; 1970	. 203 . 185	101 100				
Igrad: 1 1978) 108 167	316 200				
	<u> </u>					

 Date for Israel are included in Europe and Mediterrances totals but not in Weslern Europe totals.

Nove.—For coverage see table 2; seclades all passenger fares and abore expenditures of cruiss travelers; excludes transportation.

Bource: U.S. Department of Contractes, Office of Business Besteonies, based on data of U.S. Department of Justice. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business

900,000 Americans, Switzerland \$108 million from 800,000 visitors. Substantial increases in U.S. travel expenditures were generally recorded in the rest of Europe. In the Netherlands and Greece, however, the gains were modest, as average spending fell in both countries.

Table 4.—U.S. Travelers to Oversea Countries by Means of Transportation and by Area

(Thousands of Garolon)								
	1604	1967	tv cs	1969	1070			
Total	2,975	3,425	3,885	4,627	5,264			
бее	220 2,766	167 3, 258	147 3, 758	151 4, 479	120 5, 140			
Europe and Mediterranean Western Europe	1, 570 n.o.	1, 800 U.B.	1, 83 7 1, 880	2, 383 2, 285	2,896 2,783			
West Indies and Central America	1, 060	1,220	Ĺ, #êL	3, 7DÓ	1, 663			
Sooth America	130	176	223	245	240			
Other,	226	230	204	315	450			

n.a. Not available.

Note.—For coverage, see table 2; excludes cruisa travelers, who numbered about 337,000 in 1966, 350,000 in 1967, 380,000 in 1968, 530,000 in 1969, and 567,000 in 1978.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Office at Business Economies, based on data of U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Table 5.—Average Length of Stay of U.S. Travelors in Selected Regions

[Days]							
Rogina	1968	1967	tuda	1969	1070		
Europe and Muditer- rapsan	37 11.4	38 11.6.	30 n.a.,	2() (1), ib	27		
Bergude	u.a. n.a.	j∟¢, n.å.	11-48- 11-6-	и.о. л.в.	7		
South America	ή.Δ. 11.Δ.	B.A. B.A.	n.a.	11.6. N.O.	21 28		

n.a. Not available.

North.—Por coverage, see table 2; excludes cruise travelers. Bource: U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Reparation.

Table 6.—Percent Distribution of U.S. Air Travelers in Europe and the Mediterrunean Area, by Length of Stav

[Perrent]								
Length of stay (days)	1968	1000	1070					
[-14	30. 7	32.0	32. I					
L5-21	32. 0	28.7	29. 6					
22-35	11. 4	13.3	17. 0					
	£. 3	7.2	1. 8					
50-69.	7. I	& 1	4.4					
Di and over	12. 6	LO. 5	6.1					

Nove.-For coverage, see table 2.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Beanamies.

Western Hemisphere and Pacific

The number of Americans visiting the West Indies and Central America (excluding cruise passengers) dropped slightly last year from the record set in 1969 but this was more than offset by a rise in cruise travel, which is important in the Caribbean area. Nevertheless, the area's dollar earnings grew only 4 percent to \$390 million. The rapid growth which has been

Table 7.—Average Length of Stay and Average Daily Expenditure of U.S. Travelers in Selected European and Mediterranean Countries, 1979

United Kingdom Franco Italy	Average length of slay (days)	Average delly expenditure (dollors)
Europe and Mediterranean, total	27	18. 15
Franco	12 8 11	17, 58 19, 60 17, 64
West Germany Switzerland Spain	11 6 12	14.64 22.63 16.00
Notherlands Anatria Donmark	5 6 7	15, 69 16, 50 17, 80
Helgium-Lapombourg Ireland	5 12 22	11. 80 15. 67 14, 45

Nors.—For coverage, see table 2; excludes all passenger fores and shore expenditures of cruise passengers; excludes transportation.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

Table 8.—U.S. Receipts From Foreign Visitors in the United States

[Billions of Goderal								
	1966	1967	1008	1969	סדענ			
Total U.S. travel receipts.	L,580	1,646	1,775	2,058	2,319			
Canada	488 458	575 457	680 492	818 630	886 546			
Total overses countries	#4	624	839	712	BBU			
Western Europa United Kingdam Franco. Germany Listy Notherlands. Sweden. Swider bind.	2)0 88 8.a. n.a. n.a. n.a. n.a.	227 43 0.8- 0.8- 0.6- 0.6- 0.6- 0.8-	226 42 50 44 22 12 13 14 50	24 4 5 5 4 4 2 2 5 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6	318 61 30 67 20 10 14 15 81			
West Indies, Central and South America	220 n.n. 110	263 11.41 124 42	282 L40 144 51	276 144 172 07	33-1 16-1 237 101			

n.a. Not available.
Note:—I soludes expenditures of travelers for basiness and placaure, proclasers in transit through the United States, and audonts, eachedes expenditures by foreign government personnel and foreign businessmen employed in the United States (who are 1.5. reatlents for belongs of physicals purposes). Transoccap passenger large are also excluded.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

characteristic of the Bahamas tourist industry was interrupted last year. Earnings from U.S. visitors to the islands declined 4 percent to \$127 million. Jamaica's receipts from Americans rose 12 percent to \$95 million, while Bermuda's receipts also rose about 12 percent to \$63 million.

The below average growth of travel outlays in the West Indies last year reflected, according to some authorities, the weakness of the U.S. economy. Price competition from Europe, sharpened by a lower Atlantic air fare structure and abrupt rises in the prices of Caribbean tourist services, is also considered to have been a factor in the dampening of the West Indies tourist boom. Rising prices, as well as U.S. economic conditions, may also have been partially responsible for a slight decline in U.S. travel spending in South America, where business travel makes up a large portion of the total. There was little change in the number of visitors to the area, about 250,000. but their expenditures dropped from \$92 million in 1969 to \$90 million last vear.

Japan's Expo 70 was a major factor in the spectacular growth of travel in "other areas", primarily the Pacific and Far East. Total U.S. travel spending in these areas was nearly \$280 million.

Table 9.—Foreign Visitors to the United States From Oversea Countries, by Area and Type of Visa

(Tigousands of travelers)								
	Total	Bust- wegg	Piens- ure	Trup-	Stu- dent			
Overpes countries (elat:					<u> </u>			
1970	2,26	506	1,786	2012	1 7			
1989	2,410	282	1,472	1815				
Enrege:	8087	1 8 7	728	90	ļ į			
1970	8087	161	641	80				
West listics and Central Assertes: 1870	484 461	17 17	420 307	30 31	1			
South America:	318	50	206	322	1			
1070	281	17	223	\$10				
Other everyte areas:	502	163	305	00	,			
1970	376	67	211	46				

Note.—Excludes visitors from Council and Mexico: excludes forcigi government personnel and forcigi businessmen employed in the United States. Data are not adjusted for multiple entries on a single trip.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

compared with \$190 million in 1969. Several hundred thousand Americans spent almost \$100 million in Japan. Hong Kong apparently benefitted from Expo's attraction of travelers into the area, and increased its dollar earnings from U.S. visitors by 50 percent to \$53 million. Travel to Australia and New Zealand also rose sharply, with dollar earnings up 26 percent to about \$34 million. Other countries in the Pacific area also recorded substantial gains.

Trip expenses

U.S. travelers to Europe and the Mediterranean in 1970 spent an average of about \$870 per trip, about \$40 less than in 1969. Lower passenger fares, averaging about \$380, were a major factor in the decline of the average trip expense; average outlay in European countries was unchanged at about \$490.

With the average transatlantic passenger fare down \$40, the cost of crossing the Atlantic dropped from 46 percent of the average U.S. traveler's trip expense in 1969 to 44 percent last year. The average air fare was nearly 10 percent lower, about \$370, with sea fares somewhat higher than in 1969.

The average trip in Europe and the Mediterranean involved visits to three countries, about the same number as in 1969, but the average length of the trip was 27 days, two days shorter (table 5). Transatlantic air fares which offered lower rates for visits of 28-49 days apparently induced many travelers who otherwise would have stayed beyond 49 days to limit their trips, thus reducing the average figure. Average daily expenditure was \$18, up \$1 from 1969 (table 7).

Foreign Visitors to the United States

Foreign visitors spent \$2.3 billion in the United States last year, and paid about \$375 million to U.S. sea and air carriers for passenger fares to and from this country. The total, a record \$2.7 billion, was 14 percent more than in 1969. Travel receipts from Canadians were \$885 million, up about 8 percent,

while Mexicans' spending here rose less than 3 percent to about \$545 million (table 8).

Visitors from oversea areas numbered nearly 2.3 million in 1970, 14 percent more than in 1969 (table 9). They spent \$890 million in the United States, and paid the \$375 million in passenger fares to U.S. carriers noted above. Three-fourths of the overseas visitors were on pleasure visits, the remainder on business, in transit to other destinations, or students.

The number of European visitors rose 10 percent to 984,000. Their average expenditure rose substantially and their total spending here increased 20 percent to more than \$300 million. About 74 percent of all European visitors came on pleasure visits, a somewhat higher proportion than in 1969.

Visitors from the United Kingdom accounted for about 27 percent of all travelers from Europe but their average expenditure here was relatively low. Their spending in the United States was about \$51 million, a 19 percent increase over 1969. Receipts from Germans increased 22 percent to \$67 million. French visitors spent nearly \$40 million and Italian visitors about \$30 million, increases of 15 percent and 16 percent respectively.

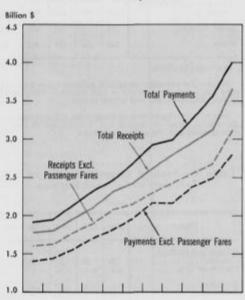
International Passenger Fare and Other Transportation Transactions

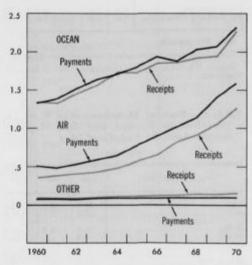
The international transportation accounts cover a wide variety of transactions involving the transfer of funds between U.S. and foreign residents. The transactions include payments to sea and air carriers for movements of goods and travelers (passenger fares) between the United States and oversea countries, the port expenditures of foreign sea and air carriers in U.S. ports and of U.S. carriers in foreign ports, and charter hire payments to foreign residents for ocean cargo vessels chartered to and operated by U.S. residents. Transactions with Canada and Mexico for rail and pipeline operations, as well as Great Lakes international shipping activities, are also included.

U.S. residents paid more than \$4 billion to foreigners in international transportation transactions last year, including \$1.2 billion of U.S. travelers' passenger fares. U.S. receipts from passenger fares and other transportation transactions were about \$3.7 billion. Our net payment for all international transportation was \$335 million, about \$100 million below the 1969 deficit of \$447 million (table 10).

CHART 12

U.S. Payments and Receipts for Passenger Fares and Other Transportation





NOTE.—Totals consist of passenger fares, freight transportation charges, charter hire, and carriers' port expenditures.

CHART 13

Payments

Americans paid about \$1,215 million in transocean passenger fares to foreign sea and air carriers. About \$970 million was for air travel, the remainder largely on cruise ships. Sea carriers earned about 14 percent more from U.S. travelers than in 1969, as cruise business prospered while regular transocean service continued to decline.

Freight payments to foreign ship operators moving U.S. imports rose \$100 million to about \$1.4 billion in 1970. Higher freight rates, in part a reflection of a strong charter hire market, accounted for most of the rise. An added factor was a somewhat greater volume of U.S. import cargo moved aboard foreign vessels than in 1969, when a dock strike early in the year caused disruptions in service. Payments to foreign air carriers for freight transportation were \$122 million, 4 percent under the record set in 1969.

U.S. ocean carriers' port expenses abroad rose to more than \$300 million in 1970, renewing the uptrend that had been interrupted in 1969 by the effects of the dock strike.

Table 10.—International Passenger Fare and Other Transportation Transactions

[Millions of dollars]							
Type of transportation	1966	1967	1968 -	1969 *	1970		
l'otal payments	2,922	2,993	3, 257	3,560	4,004		
Ocean passenger fares Other ocean transporta-	200	195	190	215	245		
Import freight Port expenditures	1, 733 1, 187 294	1, 684 1, 164 271	1, 836 1, 269 289	1, 849 1, 281 264	2, 074 1, 386 312		
Charter hire		249		304	376		
Air passenger fares Other air transportation.	555 341	635 385	695 441	865 534	970 618		
Import freight Port expenditures	47 294	58	78	127	122 496		
Other	93	94	95	1/7	97		
Total receipts	2,608	2,790	2,946	3, 113	3,659		
Ocean passenger fares Other ocean trans-	10	8	7	8	3		
portation	1,833	1,843	1,902	1,922	2, 255		
Port expenditures	1, 154	1, 162	1, 206	1, 267	1, 424		
Other	11	7	6	11	31		
Air passenger fares	307				550		
Other air transportation. Freight	346 112	457 126	502 127		700		
Port expenditures	234		375		187 518		
Other	112	119	130	133	146		
Net payments	314	203	311	447	348		

^{*} Revised.

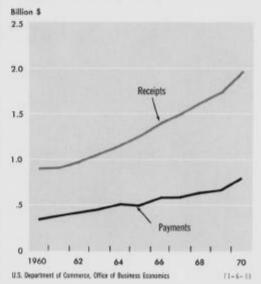
U.S. air carriers' port expenses abroad, which are primarily associated with transportation of passengers, rose 22 percent in 1970 to \$500 million. The rise reflected the larger volume of international passenger travel during the year.

Receipts

U.S. receipts from ocean transportation last year were nearly \$2.3 billion, 17 percent higher than in 1969. The total included \$800 million earned carrying U.S. exports as well as freight between foreign countries, \$1.4 billion in port expenditures here, and \$34 million from other sources, including about \$3 million from ocean passenger fares. While trade tonnage carried on U.S. ships has changed little in recent years, higher average freight rates received by U.S. ship operators, often for handling choice, high-value cargoes, vielded increased total freight receipts. Rising handling charges have been boosting U.S. receipts from foreign carriers' port expenditures here.

Foreigners paid almost \$1.3 billion to the United States for air transportation and related services in 1970. Earnings from passenger fares, including \$175 million for fares of foreigners between foreign destinations, increased about 24 percent to a total of \$550 million. Foreign airliners' port expenses

U.S. Payments and Receipts for Carriers' Port Expenditures



in the United States, mostly connected with passenger traffic, rose 12 percent to \$518 million. Air freight on U.S. exports and on shipments between foreign points earned \$187 million for U.S. airlines in 1970, continuing the steady uptrend in this service.

Other transportation earnings, representing receipts from Canada and Mexico for rail and pipeline transportation and Great Lakes shipping, totaled \$146 million in 1970.

(Continued from page 18)

On March 31, durable goods producers estimated their net inventory excess at \$1.70 billion, compared to \$1.81 billion at yearend and \$1.88 billion a year earlier. The proportion of the excess to total holdings fell from 2.9 percent on March 31, 1970, to 2.6 percent on March 31, 1971.

Nondurable goods producers' net excess at the end of March was \$430 million, compared with \$500 million on December 31 and \$600 million on March 31 last year. The net excess on March 31, 1971, equaled 1.3 percent of all nondurable goods producers' stocks, down from 1.8 percent a year earlier.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.